production technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing production of planting materials, efficient use of water, treatment of planting materials. During 2008-09, in all, 19 States implemented SUBACS.

(c) Concessional loans at an interest rate of 4% per annum are given to sugar factories from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernization of plant and machinery, expansion of crushing capacity, utilization of by-products *viz.* baggasse for co-generation of power and molasses for production of ethanol, upgradation of technology and sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management etc.

(d) A short term scheme has been announced for cane development in the current financial year under which loans of Rs. 1.0 to 2.5 crore will be available to sugar factories depending upon their crushing capacity, for purchase of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides etc. This loan is expected to be passed on to the farmers.

Regulator for grievances of prospective investors in steel industry

*127. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any statutory regulator to consider grievances of prospective investors in steel sector in the country;

(b) if not, the steps Government proposes to take in the matter; and

(c) the current mechanism to address the concerns of the steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no statutory regulator to consider the grievances of prospective investors in steel sector in the country.

(b) and (c) Steel sector in the country is deregulated and Government does not exercise any control over production, sale and price of steel products. The role of Government is that of a facilitator for an overall and healthy growth of steel sector in the country. In order to monitor and coordinate various issues, including state related issues concerning major steel investments in the country, an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted in the Ministry of Steel, under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel).

Decline in production of pulses

*128. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of pulses in the country has been going down for the past several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures Government is planning to take to improve the production of pulses in the country?